

MOBILE BOAT CLINIC, LA MOSQUITIA - HONDURAS



HONDURAS, LA MOSQUITIA

The region of La Mosquitia (the Mosquito Coast) Hondureña is characterized by water. Water is present in many aspects of life in Mosquitia: in the rivers and lagoons that facilitate the transport of people throughout the region, but also in the tropical storms and hurricanes that are frequent visitors to the region.

Article 45 of Honduras' Constitution recognizes healthcare as a right. While great strides have been made to ensure that this right is translated into a reality throughout the country, a good portion of rural communities have been left out.

A large number of those excluded live in La Mosquitia, a region in the north-eastern coast that is isolated and difficult to reach. According to Honduras' poverty map, La Mosquitia is considered one of the most impoverished areas in Honduras, partly due to healthcare structural

deficiencies. For the majority of the Mosquito people, the prevalent ethnicity in the region, access to healthcare is made difficult due to geographic make-up of the region.

There are few healthcare structures in existence in Gracias a Dios, and those that do exist are often deprived of a doctor, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals. By virtue of geography and socio-economic status, the majority of the population has great difficulty in accessing current healthcare structures. In fact, the villages we have identified to be part of the project are located along lagoon areas, where the only way to arrive at the closest healthcare center is by boat along the rivers. As a result, women receive little or no prenatal services, and often give birth without knowing that they are positive for various diseases and have passed on either the disease, or its effects to their newborn child. The majority of these diseases are easily preventable and treatable.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Improvement of the health and sanitary conditions of the local communities in Gracias a Dios through the development of a mobile health clinic (boat), with particular attention to preventive efforts for pregnant women and young children.



PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

The La Mosquitia Mobile Boat Clinic project will serve 9,700 residents in communities across the municipalities of Puerto Lempira and Ramon Villeda Morales:

2.800 children aged 0-5
2.500 children aged 6-9
1.200 children aged 10-14
1.200 pregnant women
2.000 other individuals

The Mobile Clinic team of healthcare professionals and paraprofessionals will utilize a boat outfitted with medical equipment and supplies to provide basic healthcare interventions and community assessments, including the following:

- Implementation of WHO Safe Motherhood Needs Assessment
- Outfitting of mobile clinic and staff recruitment and training
- Provision of “basic medical package” for prenatal and pediatric care, including diagnostic and treatment services by experienced and trained staff.
- Provision of “basic medical package” for all other members of the community
- Screening of anemia for all pregnant women
- Screening and treatment of malaria for all pregnant women.
- Public Health and Sanitation campaigns, focusing attention on issues of basic hygiene and sanitation, specific diseases, community preventive measures and aimed at specific populations

Percentage of the population living below the poverty line	75%
% under-fives with malaria	3.2
MDG* Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	294
Deliveries per year	1.085
Malaria rate in total population (per 10.000)	270.7

Estrategia Nacional para la Reducción de la Pobreza (ERP)
Programma Nacional de Prevención y Control de la Malaria (2006)

* Millennium Development Goals
Departamento de Estadística de Jefatura (2006)
Secretaría de Salud (2006)
Programma de Control de Enfermedades de Trasmisión Vectorial (2007)